



**PRMS**

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
**Performance and Results Measurement System**

# ***FIELD PERFORMANCE MEASURES BUSINESS DEFINITIONS***



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## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: CUSTOMER ASSISTED

### DEFINITION

This performance measure is recorded each time direct service is provided to a customer that cannot be appropriately reported under Conservation Systems, Key Conservation Treatments, or Resource Inventory and Evaluation performance measures. Direct service can include assistance in conservation treatment planning or application, field days, public presentations, meetings to support locally led efforts, and direct responses to requests for information or other technical products. It does not include routine distribution of general information materials to individuals such as newsletters.

### PURPOSE

This performance measure allows NRCS to credibly report for a fiscal year: 1) the absolute number of customers assisted, and 2) the total instances of assistance, which includes repeat services to customers. This measure reports general assistance that cannot be reported under Conservation Systems, Inventory & Evaluations, or Key Conservation Treatments performance measures.

### DATA ATTRIBUTES

#### Record Reference

Optional field that you can use to enter identifiers or other information at your discretion. This field can be useful for identifying a reason for entering a record.

#### Assistance Date

The date the assistance or service to the customer took place.

#### First Service in Fiscal Year

This attribute is selected the first time a customer receives direct service **during the fiscal year**, regardless of the program used to deliver the service. This number is used to provide an approximate count of the number of customers served by NRCS in a fiscal year.

In situations where the planner is unsure if this is the first contact, use your best judgment.

#### Customer Type

Select one as appropriate.

#### Customer Status

Enter the number of customers assisted by placing a number in each customer status box that applies. Generally, you will only enter a “1” in a single customer status box, however, when providing assistance to groups, you can have larger numbers entered in several of the customer status boxes. Note that for certain customer types, this data attribute is not a required field.

#### Program Category(s)

Enter all programs through which the instance of assistance is provided. Generally, this is a single program; however, in cases where more than one program is involved, you can check more than one box.

#### Location and Staff Providing Service

Location (State/County/HU/Conservation District/Congressional District)

For each record reported, you can only select a single entry for each location type. For assistance that crosses any of the geographic boundaries, select the area where the majority of the work or assistance is provided, or split the number to be

reported into a separate record to represent each geographic area.

### Staff Providing Service

For each record reported, you can select multiple staff categories as appropriate. Indicate if the direct service was provided by NRCS, District, State, or other staff.

## PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

### *Customers Assisted*

The number of customers that receive direct assistance by customer type and customer status. This captures direct assistance to individuals that would not be reported under an Inventory & Evaluation, Conservation System, or Key Conservation Treatment performance measure.

### EXAMPLE

Assume a planner makes four visits to a customer with a 160-acre planning unit, beginning October 1. The result of these visits is a formal plan (at the RMS level) the following spring. The plan includes three fields that need several conservation practices.

#### What can be reported?

- ♦ **First Time Service** - Enter a Customer Assisted record and complete the customer information with the first time service box checked since this was the first service provided in the fiscal year.
- ♦ **Second Time Service** - Enter a Customer Assisted record and complete the customer information without first time service checked.
- ♦ **Third Time Service** - Enter a Customer Assisted record and complete the customer information without first time service checked.

- ♦ **Fourth Time Service** - Do not enter a Customer Assisted Record. Enter a Conservation System Planned (at the Adequate Conservation Treatment planned to the RMS level) record and complete the customer information without first time service checked. Do not report the specific practices planned, which appear under Key Conservation Treatments, until the practices are installed. In a situation where a service is provided to a husband and wife or other co-owners or operators, both are reported.

### Double reporting of a customer

Double reporting should not occur. This screen is **only** used to report assistance that cannot be reported under Conservation Systems, Key Conservation Treatments, or Resource Inventory & Evaluation performance measures. If assistance is reported under one of these other measures, PRMS counts the 'customer information' data for that screen and includes it in the Customers Assisted Report (See PRMS Products, Customer Assisted Report).

## OTHER ISSUES

### Follow-up Client Assistance

Report repeat services to customers using examples for second, third and fourth visits. All of the above examples and explanations apply. On the first performance measure entered for the customer after the start of the next fiscal year, complete the customer information with first time service checked. By reporting in this manner, ongoing instances for assistance are captured within the reporting system.

### Group Assistance

When providing assistance to a group, the type of group and manner of assistance given is important. Routine mass mailings with general information should not be reported.

Working with a group of individuals that have a role in making decisions affecting land should be reported. In these cases, customers are reported as a group with a best estimate of the breakdown by status.

In cases where the group is predominately youth (e.g. students, Scouts, other civic groups) they should be reported as 'Student/Educator' for customer type. The customer status should be completed to represent the make-up of the group.

If reporting assistance that occurs over two or more political or geographical boundaries, the assistance can be divided accordingly or can be reported as the area where assistance predominantly occurred. The state office can provide additional guidelines for this type of reporting.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: CONSERVATION SYSTEMS

### DEFINITION

This performance measure is recorded when a conservation system has been planned or applied at an Adequate or Beneficial Conservation Treatment level

**Adequate Conservation Treatment** meets the requirement for a Resource Management System (RMS). The RMS has a prescribed combination of conservation practices and management planned or applied that prevent natural resource degradation and permit sustained use. The RMS meets the quality criteria established in the FOTG for the treatment of soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources, taking into account social and economic considerations. This system **treats all** identified natural resource concerns to the sustainable level. The planned system describes land where resource management decisions are made consistent with the guidelines provided in the NPPH.

**Beneficial Conservation Treatment** has one or more conservation practices or management systems planned/applied that **treat some** of the identified natural resource concerns to the sustainable level, as determined in the quality criteria in the FOTG. This treatment of soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources takes into account social and economic considerations. All management systems or practices reported must be applied per state standards and specifications and documented in the case file per NRCS policy.

### PURPOSE

This performance measure permits NRCS to credibly report for a fiscal year:

- The number of Conservation Systems Planned to the Adequate or Beneficial Conservation Treatment levels.

- The number of Conservation Systems Applied at the Adequate or Beneficial Conservation Treatment levels.
- The number of customers assisted with conservation system planning and application.

### DATA ATTRIBUTES

See Customers Assisted performance measure for explanation of data to enter for the following elements -

Record Reference	Assistance Date
First Service in FY	Customer Type
Customer Status	Program Category
Location and Staff Providing Assistance	

### Select Land Use

Only one land use can be selected for each entry. If the area treated encompasses several land uses, report each separately.

### Resource Concerns

You can select one or more resource issues that are addressed by the application of this measure.

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

#### *Conservation System Planned and Applied*

#### **Adequate Conservation Treatment Planned (to the RMS level)**

Acres by land use having a prescribed combination of practices and management systems planned that **treat all** of the identified natural resource concerns to the sustainable level, as determined in the quality criteria by the FOTG.

**Adequate Conservation Treatment Applied (to the RMS level)**

Acres by land use having a prescribed combination of conservation practices and management applied that **treat all** of the identified natural resource concerns to the sustainable level, as determined by the quality criteria in the FOTG.

**Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level)**

Acres by land use having one or more conservation practices or management systems planned that **treat some** of the identified natural resource concerns to the sustainable level as determined in the quality criteria in the FOTG. At a minimum, progressive planning has occurred.

**Beneficial Conservation Treatment Applied (not to the RMS level)**

Acres by land use having one or more conservation practices or management systems applied that **treat some** of the identified natural resource concerns to the sustainable level as determined by the quality criteria in the FOTG. At a minimum, application was made based on progressive planning and associated management decisions.

**EXAMPLE**

The planning unit is 320 acres, with 160 acres of cropland divided into three fields. (Field one – 80 acres, field two – 60 acres, and field three – 20 acres) and a 160 acre pasture. The local FOTG identifies three resource concerns for this part of the county: 1) erosion control, 2) surface water quality, and 3) wildlife habitat. These correspond to the PRMS resource concerns: Soil Erosion/Sedimentation, Surface Water Quality from Agricultural Runoff, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Loss or Degradation.

The current date is April 1999. All three fields are formally planned as follows: **Cropland**–grassed

waterways (planned and applied in 1999), terraces (planned in 1999 for application in 2000), and residue management-mulch till (planned and applied in 1999). In addition, the 20-acre field has nutrient management planned and applied in 1999. **Pasture**–Prescribed Grazing (planned and applied in 1999) and Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (planned and applied in 1999).

The plan provides for the treatment of **all** of the identified resource concerns on this land unit.

**What can be reported?**

Several things can be reported in this example:

**Conservation Systems**

- Adequate Conservation Treatment Planned on 320 acres (160 cropland acres and 160 pasture acres).
- Beneficial Conservation Treatment Applied on 160 acres (fields one, two and three).
- Adequate Conservation Treatment Applied on 160 acres of pasture (field four), which is the only field that meets this requirement in 1999. The PRMS reporting screen shows:

	Adequate Conservation Treatment  (RMS level)	Beneficial Conservation Treatment  (Not to RMS level)
Planned Acres	320	0
Applied Acres	160	160

**Key Conservation Treatments**

- **Nutrient Management**–20 acres of Nutrient Management planned and 20 acres of Nutrient Management applied.
- **Tillage and Residue Management**–160 acres of Residue Management applied.



- ♦ **Erosion Control**—160 acres of erosion control resulting from residue management and grassed waterways.
- ♦ **Conservation Buffers**—the actual acreage placed in Grassed Waterways.

## OTHER ISSUES

The reporting of management practices should be based on a consensus between the customer and the planner. The customer has made a decision to implement the practices according to the standards and specifications in the local FOTG. The planner provides a plan meeting NRCS planning policy.

Upon visits to update plans or contracts, practices that have been scheduled for annual application should be reported.

### When do I report this activity?

This measure records all the acres having planned or applied conservation systems (at any level) within a given fiscal year. The measure should be reported at the time the activity is completed. For example, a “conservation system planned” might be reported in one fiscal year, while the “conservation system applied” would not be completed and reported until the following fiscal year. It is understood that conservation systems applied have previously been planned.

### Aggregate Reporting in PRMS

**PRMS automatically counts “1” unit for each record entered.** For example, assume that a planner has just completed three plans (each with 160 acres, for a total of 480 acres) at the beneficial treatment level. If the planner aggregates these data into a single entry, the ‘customer information’ data identifies **three customers** assisted for Conservation Systems, but **only one system planned** (480 acres).

To ensure that the total number of systems planned is recorded properly, each customer should be reported individually. This way the system counts

three customers assisted for Conservation Systems, **and** three systems planned (160 acres each).

### Progressive planning/application

Land on which practices are being applied progressively is reported at the **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Applied (not to the RMS level)** for each fiscal year that a practice is applied, until all practices in the planned system are implemented. If the unit was planned at the Adequate Conservation Treatment Level, when the last practice is applied, the acreage is reported as **Adequate Conservation Treatment Applied (to the RMS level)**.

For example, assume a customer has a plan with scheduled practices for a single field for 3/99 (applied 3/99) and 6/00 (2000). When all practices are applied, the planning unit will be at the Adequate Conservation Treatment level. In March 1999, the planner reports the acreage applied at the Beneficial Conservation Treatment level (this can be the entire planning unit or some subset, depending on the extent of the practice). Later, the customer is able to apply the additional practice in September 1999 rather than the following year. The planner then reports the acreage applied at the Adequate Treatment level—this is the entire planning unit.



### **Revision of planned acres**

Planned acreage should only be reported one time. However, if a conservation plan is revised to document significant change in the management or practices applied for a planning unit, then the acres of a Conservation System planned (and applied if appropriate) would be reported again. This should be reported even if the revision occurs within the same fiscal year. The most typical example of this can be reporting acreage planned at the Beneficial Treatment level, which later is revised and planned at the Adequate Treatment level.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: INVENTORY & EVALUATIONS

### DEFINITION

An inventory or evaluation (I&E) completed for an individual, a group, or organization on a specific natural resource issue. The I&E addresses the resource condition in a technical manner that helps a customer understand the resource concerns or issues, and provides an evaluation of an alternative or proposed solution to resolve the resource concern. This item includes only technical contacts that do not result in a formal conservation plan.

**It does not include determinations made for eligibility for specific programs or for compliance with specific programs.**

I&Es do not include rangeland, timber, or other formal resource related inventories that are routinely part of the planning process.

**This measure does not include National Resource Inventory (NRI) data collection.**

### PURPOSE

This performance measure allows NRCS to credibly report for the fiscal year: 1) the number of I&Es completed, 2) the number of customers receiving I&E assistance, and 3) the resource concerns addressed by this type of technical assistance. I&Es can be a significant work product for many offices and could represent a large share of the technical assistance provided in many urban locations.

### DATA ATTRIBUTES

See Customers Assisted performance measure for explanation of data to enter for the following elements -

Record Reference	Assistance Date
First Service in FY	Customer Type

Customer Status

Program Category

Location and Staff providing assistance

### Resource Concern

You can select one or more resource issues that are impacted by application of this measure.

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

#### *Inventory and Evaluations*

A completed I&E and the resource concern(s) that are addressed.

### EXAMPLE

A planner receives a call from an individual that has a 'ranchette' (home and 15 acres) in an older subdivision outside of town. This person has a gully erosion problem. The planner goes to the site and finds that the customer thinks a pond is needed to solve the problem. The planner describes the aspects relating to building a pond (drainage area, dirt work, pipes, etc.) and the customer realizes that the pond is not really an option. The planner also provides some soils information and alternative suggestions for shaping the eroded area, and a seeding mix of grasses and forbs. The customer makes the land treatment decision based on the inventory and evaluation assistance provided by the planner.

### What can be reported?

In this example, only one item can be reported:

### Inventory & Evaluation

One inventory and evaluation is reported and the resource concern(s) addressed.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

### **Cumulative vs. non-cumulative**

Data recorded in this measure is cumulative for the current year only and is not kept as a cumulative total in following years. Each fiscal year starts without any data from the previous year.

### **Aggregating Data**

For each record entered, the system counts a single I&E. If several I&Es are performed, they should be entered individually with the appropriate customer status to assure that the actual total is captured in the database.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: SUCCESS STORIES

### DEFINITION

This performance measure provides the opportunity to report specific examples of conservation successes. The story should demonstrate an above average output or outcome resulting from conservation assistance. The output or outcome can be environmental, economic, or social in nature.

Information reported here can also have been reported as one of the other performance measures. For example, multiple benefits derived from the implementation of a nutrient management system for an Animal Feeding Operation might be reported here as a success story, but would also have been reported as a Key Conservation Treatment. This measure also provides the opportunity to report particular successful conservation activities that can not be reported under other measures. The latter can be particularly relevant to urban or suburban oriented offices where non-traditional conservation work comprises a large share of office activities.

### PURPOSE

This performance measure allows NRCS to credibly report for a fiscal year: 1) specific examples of conservation successes, 2) resource concerns addressed, and 3) the number of customers benefiting from the described conservation success.

### DATA ATTRIBUTES

See Customers Assisted performance measure for explanation of data to enter for the following elements -

Record Reference	Assistance Date
First Service in FY	Customer Type
Customer Status	Program Category

Location and Staff providing assistance

### Resource Concerns

You can select one or more resource issues that are impacted by application of this measure.

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

#### *Success Story Title*

A short, descriptive title of the success story. Journalistic style entries are appropriate for this element (e.g., Atlantic Salmon Make a Comeback in Soudabscook River, ME)

#### *Success Story Text*

Brief description of the activity. Please address as many of the following question areas as appropriate:

- 1) Identify the group(s), or organizations(s) assisted. Do not include specific names of individuals.
- 2) Identify the staff providing assistance (e.g., NRCS, Partners, combination, other). Include specific names if possible and appropriate. Ensure that individuals you identify are aware that you have submitted this account.
- 3) Describe the activity undertaken, including if it was an iterative process and the time period covered. Include in this description if civil rights, outreach, or other Agency or Department priorities or Initiatives were addressed through the activity described.
- 4) Identify the key conservation, agricultural, economic, and social benefits emerging from the activity.
- 5) Identify any long-range expectations or associated implications for advancing

conservation, continuing benefit stream, or increasing participation, etc.

The text entry is limited to 3,500 characters (including spaces), an amount roughly equal to a single page of single-spaced text (Times New Roman, 12 pitch)

## EXAMPLES

The following are examples of success stories taken from NRCS This Week.

### **NRCS and Partners Win Public Works Award**

NRCS employees (Mike Hayama, Tim Brasuell, Neal Fujiwara, Keith Harada, Gerard Samulski, and Mario Milani), the County of Maui, and the West Maui Soil and Water Conservation District, won the 1999 Project of the Year from the American Public Works Association (APWA), Hawaii Chapter. They were acknowledged for their work on the Honokeana and Kaopala Desilting Basins in West Maui. The basins improve water quality and preserve the health of coral reefs by reducing sediment and capturing storm debris. The P.L. 83-566 project was authorized for installation in 1976 and completed in July 1998. The award recognizes successful partnerships among the managing agencies, consultants, and contractors. The project will be nominated for the National APWA Project of the Year.

### **Outreach in its Finest Form in Taylor County, WV**

NRCS West Virginia, the Wes-Mon-Ty Resource Conservation and Development Council, and several other partners celebrated the opening of a new composting facility in Taylor County. Called by State Conservationist Bill Hartman “outreach in its best form,” the facility is operated by the Taylor County Workshop, a community rehabilitation center that hires and trains individuals who have disabilities to manufacture containers. Workers will turn a combination of sawdust and poultry litter from nearby Hardy

County into compost. This composting will save space in landfills, recycle and make use of organic wastes, and improve the water quality of a stream that flows by the workshop. NRCS provided \$60,000 for the facility and technical assistance.

## OTHER ISSUES

**Data Availability** – Success stories data are made available at two access levels:

- ♦ **Registered System Access** includes all success stories entered into PRMS.
- ♦ **General Public Access** is restricted to success stories that have been cleared by State Public Affairs Specialists for public distribution. State Public Affairs Specialists have leadership for identifying State success stories from PRMS and ensuring that the information is modified as needed before being made available. For both access levels, users can create customized reports select entries by Program Category, Resource Concern, and Geographic Area.

## Double Reporting

This measure is not added to any of the other performance measures in reporting results. Thus, there is no potential for data entry here to result in double reporting of a single instance of assistance.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: EROSION CONTROL

### DEFINITION

This performance measure records the number of acres treated by the application of conservation practices or systems that reduce soil erosion. Practices or systems appropriate for this measure include a specific reference to reduction of soil erosion as one or more of the “Purposes” in section IV of the FOTG. For example:

#### 589B Cross Wind Stripcropping, (Ac.)

Purposes:

This practice can be applied as part of a conservation management system to support one or both of the following:

- ♦ Reduce soil erosion from wind.
- ♦ Protect growing crops from damage by wind-borne soil particles.

All management systems or practices reported must be applied per state standard and documented in the case file per NRCS policy.

### PURPOSE

This performance measure permits NRCS to credibly report for a fiscal year:

- ♦ The number of acres treated to control soil erosion.
- ♦ The estimated soil savings from reduced erosion by wind and water.
- ♦ The number of customers assisted with erosion control.

### DATA ATTRIBUTES

See Customers Assisted performance measure for explanation of data to enter for the following attributes -

Record Reference

Assistance Date

First Service in FY

Customer Type

Customer Status

Program Category

Location and Staff Providing Assistance

### Select Land Use

Only one land use can be selected for each entry. If the area treated encompasses several land uses, report each separately.

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

#### *Erosion Control Systems*

#### **Erosion Control Applied**

The number of acres on which a practice or a system has been applied to reduce erosion by wind and/or water.

#### **T Value for Acres Treated**

The Soil Loss Tolerance (T) Value for the primary soil used in planning the conservation practices applied. The “T” value for acres treated can be based on a single map unit or the predominant map unit of the area treated

#### **Soil Loss before Practice/System Application**

The estimated soil loss prior to application of the practice/system. Separate entries are made for wind and water erosion. The method used to calculate must be in tons/acre/year units.

#### **Soil Loss after Practice/System Application**

The estimated soil loss after the application of the practice/system. Separate entries are made for wind and water erosion. The method used to calculate must be in tons/acre/year units.

Estimated soil loss should be based on a weighted average for the field(s) benefited by the erosion control practice or system.

The method used for estimating soil loss information is based on a standard approach supported by the state office.

## HEL

Check 'Yes' if an AD 1026 and an HEL determination have been completed for the cropland. Cultivated cropland should meet the definition in NFSAM, Part 525, and be used for the production of an agricultural commodity.

## EXAMPLE

A 160 acre planning unit, with three fields, has been planned for the following conservation practices: three grassed waterways installed in 1999 (2.75 ac, 1.25 ac., and 1 ac.) for a total of five acres. Terraces will be installed in 2000 or 2001 when grass is established in waterways. The plan also includes implementation of Residue Management, Mulch Till in 1999.

### What can be reported?

In this example, several items can be reported in 1999:

- ♦ **Erosion Control**—1) the waterways are reported for Erosion Control (usually gully erosion). Record the acres that represent the footprint of the waterways (5 acres). 2) Residue management is reported for 155 acres as an element of erosion control (possibly for both wind and water).
- ♦ **Conservation Systems**—1) If the acreage has not been previously planned, report 160 acres under **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned** (not to the RMS level). 2) Report 160 acres of **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Applied** on land not to the RMS level.

- ♦ **Conservation Buffers** – 1) The 5 acres of waterways are reported.
- ♦ **Tillage and Residue Management**—160 acres of mulch tillage are reported.

## OTHER ISSUES

Practices planned, but not applied in the present fiscal year, are not reported until they are completed. For example, when terraces in the previous example are applied, that part of the field that is terraced would be reported in the Erosion Control portion (155 acres).

In locations where wind and water erosion are identified resource concerns in the FOTG, the reduction in erosion from both categories by application of a practice (i.e., residue management) can be reported under both wind and water.

Inclusion of other forms of erosion (i.e., ephemeral or gully) can be reported if calculated based on a standard approach supported by the local state office. The reporting of those acres should be included in the appropriate category (i.e., water erosion).

**Note:** All comments related to the reporting of Key Conservation Treatments are based on the following assumptions:

- ♦ Additional practices need to be applied for Adequate Conservation Treatment Applied on land (to the RMS level).
- ♦ If the land unit does not have an existing conservation plan, progressive planning is used to record the planning and application of these practices and related acreage as **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level)**.



## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

### DEFINITION

This performance measure records the total number of acres on which a nutrient management system is planned and/or applied. A nutrient management system considers all activities related to managing the amount, form, placement, and timing of applications of plant nutrients, which include commercial fertilizers, livestock manure, green manure, and any other source of plant nutrients. Nutrient management can include optimized plant use, minimized entry of nutrients to surface and groundwater, and maintenance or improvement to the condition of the soil.

All management systems or practices reported must be applied per state standard and documented in the case file per NRCS policy.

### PURPOSE

This performance measure permits NRCS to credibly report for a fiscal year:

- ♦ The acres of land on which nutrient management has been planned.
- ♦ The acres of land on which nutrient management has been applied.
- ♦ The acres of land of an Animal Feeding Operation where nutrient management has been planned or applied, and 4) the number of customers assisted with nutrient management planning and application.

### DATA ATTRIBUTES

See Customers Assisted performance measure for explanation of data to enter for the following attributes -

Record Reference	Assistance Date
First Service in FY	Customer Type

Customer Status

Program Category

Location and Staff Providing Assistance

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

#### *Nutrient Management Systems Planned*

The number of acres planned that meet the FOTG standard for practice 590 Nutrient Management. If the planned nutrient management system is for an Animal Feeding Operation (AFO), record under the “AFO” heading. For all others, record under “Non-AFO.”

#### *Nutrient Management Systems Applied*

The number of acres applied that meet the FOTG standard for practice 590 Nutrient Management. If the applied nutrient management system is for an Animal Feeding Operation (AFO), record under the “AFO” heading. For all others, record under “Non-AFO.”

AFOs are agricultural enterprises where animals are kept and raised in confined situations. Contact your state office AFO representative for additional guidance

### EXAMPLE

A nutrient management plan that meets FOTG standard 590 has been developed and applied on a 160 acres of cropland. The agricultural enterprise includes an animal feeding operation which will land apply manure nutrients to the cropland acres. The plan is expected to improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and plant growth.

#### **What can be reported?**

For this example, several things can be reported:

- ♦ **Nutrient management**–1) 160 acres planned under the “AFO” category. 2) 160 acres applied under the “AFO” category.
- ♦ **Conservation System**–1) If there is no existing plan on the land unit, report the 160 acres under **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level)** as a progressive plan. 2) If this is the only planned application for the land unit for this fiscal year, report 160 acres under **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Applied (not to the RMS level)** with benefits to wildlife, water quality or plant growth.

## OTHER ISSUES

Refer to the local FOTG for specific 590 practice standards. The potential can exist for additional reporting where specific state standards reference other resource concerns.

**Note:** All comments related to the reporting of Key Conservation Treatments are based on the following assumptions:

- ♦ Additional practices need to be applied for **Adequate Conservation Treatment Applied on land (to the RMS level)**.
- ♦ If the land unit does not have an existing conservation plan, progressive planning is used to record the planning and application of these practices and related acreage as **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level)**.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: TILLAGE AND RESIDUE MANAGEMENT

### DEFINITION

This performance measure records the total number of cropland acres that are under conservation tillage management systems, including No Till and Strip Till (329A), Mulch Till (329B), or Ridge Till (329C). This performance measure includes all acres treated to the FOTG standards and specifications. Results can include one or more of the following: reduced erosion, maintained or improved soil tilth, conservation of moisture, or provision for wildlife habitat.

All management systems or practices reported must be applied per state standard and documented in the case file per NRCS policy.

### PURPOSE

This performance measure permits NRCS to credibly report for a fiscal year: 1) the number of acres of land on which residue management or reduced tillage is applied, and 2) the number of customers assisted with tillage and residue management.

### DATA ATTRIBUTES

See Customers Assisted performance measure for explanation of data to enter for the following attributes -

Record Reference	Assistance Date
First Service in FY	Customer Type
Customer Status	Program Category
Location and Staff Providing Assistance	

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

#### *Tillage and Residue Management*

The number of acres of No Till or Strip Till (329A), Ridge Till (329B), or Mulch Till (329C) applied that meet the FOTG standards for these practices.

### EXAMPLE

A combination of No Till and Ridge Till are applied on a 160 acres of cropland. This practice is part of a larger conservation plan that is expected to improve water quality, erosion, wildlife, or water available for plant growth.

#### What can be reported?

- ♦ **Conservation Tillage**—160 acres of Conservation Tillage Applied.
- ♦ **Erosion Control**—160 acres of erosion control. Includes estimates of soil loss before and after the application of the tillage practices.
- ♦ **Conservation Systems**
  1. If the acreage has not previously been planned, report 160 acres of **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level)** with benefits to water quality, wildlife, water quantity, and erosion as a progressive plan.
  2. If this is the only planned application for the land unit in this fiscal year, report 160 acres of **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Applied (not to the RMS level)** with benefits to water quality, wildlife, water quantity, and erosion.

## OTHER ISSUES

Refer to local FOTG and specific practice standard and details. The potential can exist for additional reporting where specific state standards reference other resource concerns.

**Note:** All comments related to the reporting of Key Conservation Treatments are based on the following assumptions:

- ♦ Additional practices need to be applied for **Adequate Conservation Treatment Applied on land (to the RMS level)**.
- ♦ If the land unit does not have an existing conservation plan, progressive planning is used to record the planning and application of these practices and related acreage as **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level)**.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: WASTE MANAGEMENT

### DEFINITION

This performance measure records the total number of waste management structures or facilities installed. This performance measure includes practices installed to the FOTG standard for: Waste Storage Facility (313), Composting Facility (317), and Waste Treatment Lagoon (359). All practices reported must be applied per state standard and documented in the case file per NRCS policy.

### PURPOSE

This performance measure permits NRCS to credibly report for a fiscal year:

- ♦ The number of Waste Storage Facilities, Composting Facilities, and Waste Treatment Lagoons installed for managing liquid and solid wastes.
- ♦ The number of customers assisted with waste management facilities and structures.

### DATA ATTRIBUTES

See Customers Assisted performance measure for explanation of data to enter for the following attributes -

Record Reference	Assistance Date
First Service in FY	Customer Type
Customer Status	Program Category
Location and Staff Providing Assistance	

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

#### *Waste Management Practices Applied*

The number of Waste Storage Facilities (313), Composting Facilities (317), and Waste Treatment

Lagoons (339) that meet the FOTG standards for these practices.

### EXAMPLE

Field staff has assisted a landowner in installing the local state version of a Waste Storage Facility - 313, to manage poultry manure from an animal feeding operation. The facility is the final element required to complete the **Adequate Conservation Treatment (RMS level) Conservation System** Plan that covers the land unit (160 acres). The plan is expected to improve wildlife habitat, water quality, and forage resources.

#### What can be reported?

In this example, several things can be reported:

- ♦ **Waste Management**—One waste storage facility (313) is reported.
- ♦ **Conservation System**—1) 160 acres of **Adequate Conservation Treatment Applied (to the RMS level)** with benefits to wildlife habitat and water quality. Adequate Treatment level is reported, since the installation of the waste treatment facility completes the conservation practices and systems required to meet the RMS level plan. The planning component is not reported because it was reported in a prior fiscal year and has not been revised.

### OTHER ISSUES

Refer to local FOTG and specific practice standard and details.

The agronomic use of livestock manure is reported under the Nutrient Management performance measure (590).

## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: PEST MANAGEMENT

### DEFINITION

This performance measure records the total number of acres under agricultural pest management (including weeds, insects, and diseases) to reduce adverse effects on plant growth, crop production, and environmental resources. A pest management program can include appropriate cultural, biological, and chemical controls, and combinations thereof. This performance measure includes all acres treated to the FOTG standard for the practice 595A. All management systems or practices reported must be applied per state standard and documented in the case file per NRCS policy.

### PURPOSE

This performance measure permits NRCS to credibly report for a fiscal year: 1) the acres under pest management, and 2) the number of customers assisted with pest management.

### DATA ATTRIBUTES

See Customers Assisted performance measure for explanation of data to enter for the following attributes -

Record Reference	Assistance Date
First Service in FY	Customer Type
Customer Status	Program Category
Location and Staff Providing Assistance	

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

#### *Pest Management Systems Applied*

The total number of acres with pest management applied that meet the requirements of 595A in the FOTG.

### EXAMPLE

The local state version of Pest Management (595A) is applied to a 160 acre crop field. This is the first conservation application planned for this land unit and no additional application is anticipated in this fiscal year. The pest management system is expected to improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and the overall health of the plant community and the soil.

#### What can be reported?

In this example, several things can be reported:

- ♦ **Pest Management**—160 acres is reported under Pest Management.
- ♦ **Conservation System**
  - 1) Report 160 acres of a conservation system since no previous plan existed for this land unit (with possible benefits to water quality, or soil health) as **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level)**.
  - 2) Since this is the only component planned for this land unit in this fiscal year, report 160 acres as **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Applied (not to the RMS level)**.

### OTHER ISSUES

Refer to local FOTG and specific practice standard and details. The potential can exist for additional reporting where specific state standards reference other resource concerns.

**Note:** All comments related to the reporting of Key Conservation Treatments are based on the following assumptions:

Additional practices need to be applied for  
**Adequate Conservation Treatment Applied on  
land (to the RMS level).**

If the land unit does not have an existing  
conservation plan, progressive planning is used to  
record the planning and application of these  
practices and related acreage as **Beneficial  
Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the  
RMS level).**



## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: CONSERVATION BUFFERS

### DEFINITION

This performance measure records the total number of acres or feet of specified conservation buffer practices installed at the sustainable level. Practices include: Alley Cropping, Contour Buffer Strips, Cross Wind Trap Strips, Field Borders, Grassed Waterways, Filter Strips, Riparian Forest Buffers, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Windbreaks, Shelterbelts, Hedgerows and Herbaceous Wind Barriers.

All management systems or practices reported must be applied per state standards and documented in the case file per NRCS policy.

### PURPOSE

This performance measure permits NRCS to credibly report for a fiscal year: 1) the total number of miles of conservation buffers installed by buffer type, and 2) the total number of customers assisted with conservation buffers. This measure also supports tracking progress of the Conservation Buffer Initiative.

### DATA ATTRIBUTES

See Customers Assisted performance measure for explanation of data to enter for the following attributes -

Record Reference	Assistance Date
First Service in FY	Customer Type
Customer Status	Program Category
Location and Staff Providing Assistance	

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

#### *Conservation Buffers Applied*

The total number of acres or feet of practices installed that meet the FOTG standards for:

Alley Cropping, 311  
 Contour Buffer Strips, 332  
 Cross Wind Trap Strips, 589C  
 Field Borders, 386  
 Grassed Waterways, 412  
 Filter Strips, 393A  
 Riparian Forest Buffers, 391A  
 Streambank and Shoreline Protection, 580  
 Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation, 380, 650  
 Hedgerows 422  
 Herbaceous Wind Barriers, 422A.

**Associated with Continuous Conservation Reserve Program** – Indicate ‘Yes’ or ‘No’.

### EXAMPLE

A 160 acre planning unit, with three fields, has been planned for the following conservation practices: three grassed waterways installed in 1999 (2.75 ac, 1.25 ac., and 1 ac.) for a total of five acres. Field borders are planned for installation in 2000.

#### **What can be reported?**

In this example, several things can be reported:

- **Conservation Buffers**–The waterways should be reported under Conservation Buffers. The acres reported are only those of the waterways–five acres.
- **Erosion Control**–The waterways can also qualify to be reported as an element of erosion control. Again, the acreage reported is that of the waterways–five acres.
- **Conservation System**–1) If no previous plan existed for this land unit, report 160 acres of a conservation system as **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level)** as a

progressive plan. 2) If this is the only component planned for this land unit in this fiscal year, report 5 acres as **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Applied (not to the RMS level).**

The field borders would not be reported until they are installed in 2000.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

Many of the practices included in this measure can also qualify for the Erosion Control or Wildlife Habitat Management.

**Note:** All comments related to the reporting of Key Conservation Treatments are based on the following assumptions:

- ♦ Additional practices need to be applied for Adequate Conservation Treatment Applied on land (to the RMS level).
- ♦ If the land unit does not have an existing conservation plan, progressive planning is used to record the planning and application of these practices and related acreage as Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level).

## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT

### DEFINITION

This performance measure records the total number of acres under an irrigation water management system. This category also includes reporting of any modifications or updating of existing irrigation water management systems for enhanced water conservation. Results can include the following: promoting crop growth, minimizing soil erosion and loss of plant nutrients, controlling undesirable water loss, and protecting water quality.

This performance measure includes all acres treated to the FOTG standard for practice 449 – Irrigation Water Management. All management systems or practices reported must be applied per state standard and documented in the case file per NRCS policy.

### PURPOSE

This performance measure permits NRCS to credibly report for a fiscal year: 1) the number of acres of land on which the irrigation water management has been applied; and 2) the number of customers assisted with irrigation management.

### DATA ATTRIBUTES

See Customers Assisted performance measure for explanation of data to enter for the following attributes -

Record Reference	Assistance Date
First Service in FY	Customer Type
Customer Status	Program Category
Location and Staff Providing Assistance	

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

#### *Irrigation Management Systems Applied*

The total number of acres applied that meet the FOTG standard for Irrigation Water Management Standard 449.

#### *Acre Inches of Water Conserved*

The number of acre-inches of water conserved as a result of the application of an irrigation management system or improvements to existing irrigation systems or management.

### EXAMPLES

A 160-acre furrow irrigated crop field has the local state version of Irrigation Water Management (449) fully applied. This plan has resulted in 4-acre inches of water being saved.

On another 80-acre furrow irrigated field the water conveyance system has been improved from an open ditch to a pipe. This modification reduced the amount of water lost by evaporation or leaching by an estimated 20 percent.

#### **What can be reported?**

In example 1, several things can be reported:

- ♦ **Irrigation Management**–1) 160 acres of irrigation water management is reported, and 2) 640 acre-inches of water conserved is reported (4 inches x 160 acres = 640 acre-inches)
- ♦ **Conservation System**–1) If there is no existing plan on the land unit(s), report 160 acres under **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level)** as a progressive plan. 2) If this is the only application planned for this land unit for the fiscal year, report 160 acres of

under **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Applied (not to the RMS level)**.

In example 2, acre-inches conserved can be reported:

- The estimated reduction in water loss because of the improvement to the diversion can be reported as acre-inches of water conserved. The calculation must be based on a state-approved method.
- Since this modification did not apply all components of 449, acres of 'Irrigation Water Management' would not be reported.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

Refer to local FOTG and specific practice standard and details. The potential can exist for additional reporting where specific state standards reference water quality or quantity. Inclusion of other reporting items (e.g., erosion) can be calculated based on a standard approach supported by the local state office. The reporting of those acres affected can then be included in the appropriate category (e.g., erosion control).

**Note:** All comments related to the reporting of Key Conservation Treatments are based on the following assumptions:

- ♦ Additional practices need to be applied for Adequate Conservation Treatment Applied on land (to the RMS level).
- ♦ If the land unit does not have an existing conservation plan, progressive planning is used to record the planning and application of these practices and related acreage as Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level).

## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: PRESCRIBED GRAZING

### DEFINITION

This performance measure records the total number of acres being managed under prescribed grazing. This practice can be applied to any land use where animals graze or browse, including rangeland, pasture, grazed forest and cropland (e.g., alley cropped acres), or others. The system can improve the health and vigor of selected plants, provide food/cover/shelter for animals of concern, improve animal health and productivity, maintain water quality/quantity, and reduce soil erosion.

This performance measure includes all acres treated to the FOTG standard for practice 528A Prescribed Grazing. All management systems or practices reported must be applied per state standard and documented in the case file per NRCS policy.

### PURPOSE

This performance measure permits NRCS to credibly report for a fiscal year: 1) the number of acres of land on which prescribed grazing has been applied, and 2) the number of customers assisted with prescribed grazing.

### DATA ATTRIBUTES

See Customers Assisted performance measure for explanation of data to enter for the following attributes -

Record Reference	Assistance Date
First Service in FY	Customer Type
Customer Status	Program Category
Location and Staff Providing Assistance	

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

#### *Prescribed Grazing Applied*

The total number of acres applied that meet the FOTG standard for Prescribed Grazing Standard (528A).

### EXAMPLE

A 160-acre range unit has the local state version of Prescribed Grazing (528A) applied. This is expected to improve water quality, erosion, wildlife habitat or the overall health of the plant community

#### **What can be reported?**

In this example, several things can be reported:

- ♦ **Prescribed Grazing**—160 acres of prescribed grazing is reported.
- ♦ **Conservation System**
  - 1) If there is no existing plan on the land unit(s), report 160 acres under **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level)** as a progressive plan.
  - 2) If the prescribed grazing is the only planned application for this fiscal year, report 160 acres of a conservation system (with benefits to water quality, erosion reduction, wildlife, or the grazing land health) as **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Applied (not to the RMS level)**.

## OTHER ISSUES

Refer to local FOTG and specific practice standard and details. The potential can exist for additional reporting where specific state standards reference other resource concerns.

**Note:** All comments related to the reporting of Key Conservation Treatments are based on the following assumptions:

- Additional practices need to be applied for **Adequate Conservation Treatment Applied on land (to the RMS level)**.
- If the land unit does not have an existing conservation plan, progressive planning is used to record the planning and application of these practices and related acreage as **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level)**.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: WETLANDS CREATED/RESTORED/ENHANCED

### DEFINITION

This performance measure records the total number of acres of wetlands created, restored, or enhanced. This applies to structural and nonstructural practices used to establish or restore wetlands, drained wetlands, or sites that are hydro-geologically suitable for the development of a wetland. This item should include wetland areas that can be created around dams and other structures, in addition to those wetlands that can be created or restored as a project purpose. This data element includes all acres treated to the FOTG standard for practices 657, 658, and 659. All management systems or practices reported must be applied per state standard and documented in the case file per NRCS policy.

### PURPOSE

This performance measure permits NRCS to credibly report for a fiscal year: 1) the number of acres wetlands that are created, restored, or enhanced, and 2) the number of customers assisted with wetland creation, restoration, and enhancement.

### DATA ATTRIBUTES

See Customers Assisted performance measure for explanation of data to enter for the following attributes -

Record Reference	Assistance Date
First Service in FY	Customer Type
Customer Status	Program Category
Location and Staff Providing Assistance	

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

#### *Wetlands Created/Restored/Enhanced*

The total number of acres that meet the FOTG standards for one or more of the following practices:

Wetlands Created (657)

Wetlands Restored (658)

Wetlands Enhanced (659)

### EXAMPLE

Wetlands are restored and enhanced on a 160-acre field using practices that meet the local state version of Wetland Restoration (658) and Wetland Enhancement (659) practices. The restored wetland is 30 acres and the enhanced wetland is 20 acres. The conservation system plan that includes the wetland improvements is expected to improve wildlife habitat, water quality, or forage resources.

#### **What can be reported?**

In this example, several things can be reported:

- ♦ **Wetlands Created, Restored, or Enhanced**—50 acres of wetlands created, restored, or enhanced are reported.
- ♦ **Conservation Systems**
  1. If there is no existing plan on the land unit(s), report 50 acres under **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level)** as a progressive plan.
  2. If the wetlands restoration and enhancement is the only planned application for this fiscal year, report 50 acres of a conservation system (with benefits to water quality,



wildlife habitat, or forage production)  
as **Beneficial Conservation**  
**Treatment Applied (not to the RMS**  
**level).**

## **OTHER ISSUES**

**Note:** All comments related to the reporting of Key Conservation Treatments are based on the following assumptions:

- ♦ Additional practices need to be applied for Adequate Conservation Treatment Applied on land (to the RMS level).
- ♦ If the land unit does not have an existing conservation plan, progressive planning is used to record the planning and application of these practices and related acreage as Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level).

## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: SALINITY/ALKALINITY CONTROL

### DEFINITION

This performance measure records the total number of acres being managed to reduce salinity through soil salinity management and toxic salt reduction management. Soil salinity management includes non-irrigated acres being managed to control the harmful accumulations of salts on the soil surface or in the root zone. This includes all acres treated to the FOTG standard for practice 571.

Toxic salt reduction includes irrigated acres being managed to reduce or redistribute the harmful concentrations of salt and/or sodium in a soil. This data element includes all acres treated to the FOTG standard for practice 610.

All management systems or practices reported must be applied per state standards and documented in the case file per NRCS policy.

### PURPOSE

This performance measure permits NRCS to credibly report for a fiscal year:

- ♦ The total number of acres on which soil salinity management has been applied.
- ♦ The total number of acres on which toxic salt reduction management has been applied.
- ♦ The total number of customers receiving assistance to control soil salinity and alkalinity.

### DATA ATTRIBUTES

See Customers Assisted performance measure for explanation of data to enter for the following attributes -

Record Reference

Assistance Date

First Service in FY

Customer Type

Customer Status

Program Category

Location and Staff Providing Assistance

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

#### *Salinity Management Applied*

The number of acres of salinity or alkalinity management applied that meet the FOTG standards for either or both of the following practices:

Soil Salinity Management (571)  
Toxic Salt Reduction (610)

### EXAMPLE

A 160-acre crop field has the local state version of Soil Salinity Management (571) applied on 50 acres and Toxic Salt Reduction (610) applied on 30 acres. These salinity reduction practices are part of a conservation system plan to improve water quality, and the overall health of the plant community. There are additional practices to be implemented in future years to complete the entire conservation system plan to the RMS level.

#### What can be reported?

In this example, several things can be reported:

- ♦ **Salinity/Alkalinity Control**—1) 50 acres are reported under Soil Salinity Management (571), and 2) 30 acres are reported under Toxic Salt Reduction (610).
- ♦ **Conservation Systems**—1) Since the alkalinity control measures are the only planned applications for this land unit in this fiscal year, report 80 acres of **Beneficial Conservation Treatment**

**Applied (not to the RMS level).** Since the conservation system was planned and reported in a previous year, it is not reported again.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

Refer to local FOTG and specific practice standard and details. The potential can exist for additional reporting where specific state standards reference other resource concerns.

**Note:** All comments related to the reporting of Key Conservation Treatments are based on the following assumptions:

- ♦ Additional practices need to be applied for Adequate Conservation Treatment Applied on land (to the RMS level).
- ♦ If the land unit does not have an existing conservation plan, progressive planning is used to record the planning and application of these practices and related acreage as Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level).

## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: TREE & SHRUB PRACTICES

### DEFINITION

This performance measure records the total number of acres prepared for revegetation or improvement of forestland, which can include:

- ♦ A forest stand that is improved through manipulation of species composition and stocking by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation.
- ♦ Woody plants that are established by planting, direct seeding, or through natural regeneration (excluding shelterbelts).

Select when the estimated composition of the forest acreage established is dominated by coniferous species. All management systems or practices reported must be applied per state standard and documented in the case file per NRCS policy.

### PURPOSE

This performance measure permits NRCS to credibly report for a fiscal year:

- ♦ The number of acres of Forest Site Preparation.
- ♦ The number of acres of Forest Stand Improvement.
- ♦ The number of acres of Tree & Shrub Establishment and its dominant species category.
- ♦ The number of customers assisted with practices that contribute to the development, improvement, or establishment of trees and shrubs.

### DATA ATTRIBUTES

See Customers Assisted performance measure for explanation of data to enter for the following attributes -

Record Reference	Assistance Date
First Service in FY	Customer Type
Customer Status	Program Category
Location and Staff Providing Assistance	

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

#### *Tree and Shrub Practice Information*

The total number of acres applied that meet the FOTG standards for one or more of the following practices:

Forest Site Preparation for Revegetation (490)  
Forest Stand Improvement (666)  
Tree & Shrub Establishment (612)

**Coniferous Species Established**—Identify whether the predominant species is coniferous, if Tree and Shrub Establishment has been applied.

### EXAMPLE

A 160-acre field has the local state version of Forest Site Preparation for Revegetation (490), and Tree & Shrub Establishment (612) applied on its entirety. The application of these practices is the only component of a conservation system plan (Beneficial level) which was completed simultaneously with the practice. This plan is expected to improve water quality, air quality, or the overall health of the plant community.

#### **What can be reported?**

- ♦ **Tree & Shrub Practices**—1) 160 acres is reported under Forest Site Preparation for

Revegetation (490) and 2) 160 acres is reported under Tree & Shrub Establishment (612).

- ♦ **Conservation System**—Since the conservation system was planned and applied simultaneously with the application of the practices, report 160 acres of a conservation system (with benefits to air quality, recreation, forest health, wildlife habitat or erosion) as **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Applied (not to the RMS level)**. Also, report 160 acres as **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level)** as a progressive plan.

Practices related to shelterbelts/windbreaks are reported under conservation buffers.

## OTHER ISSUES

Refer to local FOTG and specific practice standard and details. The potential can exist for additional reporting where specific state standards reference other resource concerns.

**Note:** All comments related to the reporting of Key Conservation Treatments are based on the following assumptions:

- ♦ Additional practices need to be applied for **Adequate Conservation Treatment Applied on land (to the RMS level)**.
- ♦ If the land unit does not have an existing conservation plan, progressive planning is used to record the planning and application of these practices and related acreage as **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level)**.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

### DEFINITION

This performance measure records the total number of acres managed for wildlife habitat. This includes: 1) creating, restoring, maintaining, or enhancing areas for food, cover, and water for upland wildlife and species which use upland habitat for a portion of their life cycle and 2) retaining, developing, or managing habitat for wetland wildlife. All management systems or practices reported must be applied per state standard and documented in the case file per NRCS policy.

### PURPOSE

This performance measure permits NRCS to credibly report for a fiscal year:

- ♦ The total number of acres of upland habitat managed for wildlife.
- ♦ The total number of acres of wetland habitat managed for wildlife.
- ♦ The total number of customers assisted with wildlife habitat management.

### DATA ATTRIBUTES

See Customers Assisted performance measure for explanation of data to enter for the following attributes -

Record Reference	Assistance Date
First Service in FY	Customer Type
Customer Status	Program Category
Location and Staff Providing Assistance	

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

#### *Wildlife Habitat Management Information*

The total number of acres applied that meet the FOTG standards for either or both of the following practices:

- ♦ Upland Habitat Management (645)
- ♦ Wetland Habitat Management (644)

### EXAMPLE

A 160-acre field has the local state version of Upland Habitat Management (645) applied on 25 acres and another 25 adjacent wetland acres of Wetland Habitat Management (644) applied. The improvement of wildlife habitat addresses one of several resource concerns for the planning unit.

#### **What can be reported?**

Reporting of these progress items is based on instances where technical assistance has been provided to a customer.

- ♦ **Wildlife Habitat Management** 1) 25 acres of Upland Habitat Management, and 2) 25 acres of Wetland Habitat Management.
- ♦ **Conservation Systems**—Since the acreage has not previously been planned, report 160 acres as **Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level)** as a progressive plan.

## OTHER ISSUES

Refer to local FOTG and specific practice standard and details. The potential can exist for additional reporting where specific state standards reference other resource concerns.

**Note:** All comments related to the reporting of Key Conservation Treatments are based on the following assumptions:

- ♦ Additional practices need to be applied for Adequate Conservation Treatment Applied on land (to the RMS level).
- ♦ If the land unit does not have an existing conservation plan, progressive planning is used to record the planning and application of these practices and related acreage as Beneficial Conservation Treatment Planned (not to the RMS level)



## APPENDIX A: CHOICE LIST DEFINITIONS

### Customer Status Choice List

Customer Status	Definitions
Individual	
Race	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Black, not of Hispanic Origin.</b> A person having origins in the black racial groups of Africa.</li> <li>2. <b>Hispanic.</b> A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.</li> <li>3. <b>White.</b></li> <li>4. <b>American Indian/Alaska Native.</b> A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or communication recognition (including Aleuts and Eskimos).</li> <li>5. <b>Asian American, Pacific Islander.</b> A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands. This area includes, for example, China, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, and Samoa.</li> <li>6. <b>Other.</b></li> </ol>
Gender	Male, Female
Ethnicity	Hispanic, Non-Hispanic
Organizational Representative	An official or representative acting on behalf of a government agency, private business, community group, etc.

### Customer Type Choice List

Customer Type	Definitions
Agricultural land owner/operator	Person or persons representing any farming or ranching operational unit cultivating, producing crops, or raising livestock as a major source of income. Includes individuals, family farms and ranches, organizations, corporations, or businesses.

Agricultural group	A group of persons representing farming or ranching units cultivating, producing crops, or raising livestock as a major source of income.
Non-agricultural rural landowner/operator	Person or persons not meeting the definitions of agricultural land owners/operators, group, community, unit of government, or tribal government.
Non-agricultural rural group	A group of persons not meeting the definitions of agricultural land owners/operators, group, community, unit of government, or tribal government.
Non-agricultural suburban and urban landowner	Land owners/operators in an urban or suburban area and not meeting the definitions of agricultural landowner or rural landowner.
Non-agricultural suburban/urban group	A group of land owners/operators in an urban or suburban area and not meeting the definitions of agricultural landowner or rural landowner.
Student/Educator	
Community/Non-Profit Organization	
Unit of Government	Units of, or agents of, local, state, or federal government (not including Congressional Representatives), which own, operate, manage, control, regulate, or coordinate land and water management.
Tribal Government	Units of, or agents of, a tribal government, which own, operate, manage, control, regulate, or coordinate land and water management.
Congress	Representatives of Congress or those acting on the behalf of Congressional Representatives.
Private Business / Industry / Consultant	Person or persons acting on behalf of a business, corporation, or private industry.

### Land Use Choice List

This list will be coordinated with National Planning Procedures Handbook.

Land Use (cover)	Comments
Cultivated Cropland (including CRP land)	Land used primarily for the production of row crops, small-grain crops, nursery crops, and other specialty crops, either alone or in association with sod crops.

Non-cultivated Cropland, Hayland	Land used for the production of crops not requiring cultivation, including orchards, and land on which perennial plants are managed and harvested for hay. (Annual plants planted for hay and forage crops in short-term rotation are cropland.)
Forest Land	Land on which the primary vegetation is forest (climax, natural, or introduced plant community) and use is primarily for production of wood products.
Grazed Land	All lands where livestock is grazed, including: 1) Grazed Forest. Forest land that produces understory vegetation that is used for the production of forage for grazing by livestock rather than for the production of wood products. 2) Pastureland. Grazing lands composed of introduced or domesticated native forage species that are used primarily for the production of livestock. They receive periodic renovation and/or cultural treatments such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, weed control. They can be irrigated. They are not in rotation with crops. Includes native and naturalized pastureland. 3) Rangeland. Rangeland that is used primarily for the production of domestic livestock. Includes native plant communities and those seeded to native or introduced species, or naturalized by introduced species, that are ecologically managed using range management principles.
Urban and Built Up Land	Land occupied by buildings and related facilities used for residences, industrial sites, institutional sites, public highways, airports, other rural transportation, and similar uses.
Other Land	All other land or water, including: 1) other land in farms and ranches (e.g., land used for farmsteads, dwellings, barns, pens, corrals, farm access roads, commercial feedlots, greenhouses, or animal waste facilities); 2) mined land; 3) natural areas used for the preservation, protection, and observation of the existing resources; 4) areas whose dominant characteristic is open water; 5) land and water used for recreational purposes; 6) land managed and used for water production into streams, rivers, lakes, and aquifers; 7) land or water used or protected for wildlife habitat; 8) all other land not meeting definitions for any other category.